

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Lucy Hobbs Taylor Buildingand/or common Same

## 2. Location

street & number 809 Vermont

N/A— not for publication

city, town LawrenceN/A vicinity of Congressional districtstate Kansascode 20county Douglascode 045

## 3. Classification

## Category

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

## Ownership

☐ public☒ private☐ both

## Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered

N/A

## Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## Present Use

☐ agriculture☒ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Paula Oldehoeftstreet & number 809 Vermontcity, town Lawrence

N/A vicinity of

state Kansas 66044

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deedsstreet & number Douglas County Courthousecity, town Lawrencestate Kansas 66044

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (see continuation sheet)has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate N/A☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records N/Acity, town N/A

state

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Kansas Historic Sites Survey  
1974 state  
Historic Preservation Department  
Kansas State Historical Society  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Douglas County Historic Building Survey  
1976 county  
Elizabeth M. Watkins Community Museum  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved

date N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lucy Hobbs Taylor building at 809 Vermont street was completed in 1871. It and its neighbor to the south are the only buildings original to downtown Vermont street. Built as a combined residence and office, it has been used continuously for commercial or residential purposes. The structure has been substantially altered on the inside, but the exterior is still fairly close to its original appearance.

The Hobbs building is a two-story Italianate structure. It is built of brick on a stone foundation and has an L-shaped plan. Characteristic of Italianate structures, it has a bracketed cornice, a flat roof, and a single story porch that used to run the width of the front east facade and along the north facade to the corner formed by the L. Only the north portion of the porch remains. It has a paneled ceiling, wood plank flooring, and is supported by wooden posts with beveled corners and simply molded capitals. The cornice of the porch is decorated with dentils.

The front facade of the building has three bays. A double door with a concrete stoop in front of it is located to the far right. A second entrance, not currently in use, is located to the rear of the north porch on the wall facing east. The windows on the ground floor of the front elevation are one-over-one sash windows. Those on the second floor are two-over-two. Temporary aluminum storm windows are in place on most of the windows.

The fenestration to the rear of the north facade consists of symmetrically arranged two over two double hung sash windows. On the south facade, a bay window was removed in the 1940's or 1950's and was replaced with glass blocks. A fire escape door was recently put in the southwest corner of the second story where a window used to be. The rest of the windows are two-over-two double hung sash.

The fenestration on the back facade is irregular and has been altered. The three windows and one door with semi-elliptical arches are original, but the small window for the second floor bathroom and the door in the northwest corner are obviously later changes.

After the Taylor house was sold at auction in 1916 it was used as a residence until 1939 when T. J. Leasure, a veterinarian, remodeled the structure for use as a veterinary hospital. Most changes were made on the first floor and on the exterior. He painted the brick white, replaced the south bay window with glass blocks, and enclosed the main interior stairway to allow the upstairs renters a private entrance at the front door. In 1969 Leasure sold the Taylor building to another veterinarian who used it as a hospital for the next two years. At some point the front porch was removed and the side porch enclosed. The building is currently painted gold.

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In 1979 Paula Oldehoeft bought the building for use as a hair salon. She has been rehabilitating the structure since that time. Some original features have been uncovered, such as the main stair and the remainder of the side porch. Other features have been altered--plaster has been removed to expose brick walls, and the stone walls of one room of the basement were extensively "repointed" with Portland cement leaving relatively little stone visible.

The room configuration on the second floor has been altered only slightly. A door between two rooms on the south wall was removed and closets installed, and a wall that separated the two front rooms has been opened up to create one large space.

Much of the original woodwork remains throughout the house in the form of windows and baseboards and the stair balustrade.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion
— 1400-1499	— archeology-historic	— conservation	— law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
— 1500-1599	— agriculture	— economics	— literature	— sculpture
— 1600-1699	— architecture	— education	— military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
— 1700-1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	— commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater
— 1900-	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— transportation
		— invention		— other (specify)

Specific dates 1871 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Lucy Hobbs Taylor was the first woman in the United States to graduate from a dental college as a Doctor of Dental Surgery and to be admitted to full membership in a state professional dental society. She lived and worked in Lawrence, Kansas, for 43 years. 26 of those years were spent at 809 Vermont street, which today is one of only two original buildings left standing on the four downtown blocks of Vermont Street.

Lucy Beamon Hobbs was born in upstate New York, probably near Ellenburg, on March 14, 1833. She began her formal secondary education at the age of 12 at the Franklin Academy in Malone, New York. When she was 16 years old, Lucy started teaching school in Brooklyn, Michigan. She taught there from 1849-1859. During that time Lucy boarded with a local physician and spent her spare time reading medicine in the medical texts and journals under his tutelage. From these activities the young woman formulated her desire to pursue a career in medicine.

Lucy left Brooklyn when she was 26 years old and went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to apply for admission to the Eclectic College. The year that she arrived (1859) the faculty voted to bar all applications from female aspirants. Despite this setback, she did find a doctor who would serve as a preceptor, the tutor for an apprentice, by allowing her to observe operations, client consultations, and direct her medical reading. This man, Dr. Charles A. Cleaveland, Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, was a city physician and one of the founders of the Eclectic Medical College. He suggested that the dental avenue might offer Lucy a less difficult road to a medical occupation.

Taking his advice, Lucy set out to find a preceptor for the science of dentistry. She finally chanced upon Dr. Jonathan Taft, physician, surgeon, and doctor of dental surgery, who served as her part-time preceptor for several months. Through Dr. Taft, Lucy found Dr. Samuel Wardle under whom she served a year-long apprenticeship.

Unable at the end of her apprenticeship to convince the Ohio College of Dental Surgery to accept her application, she opened a dental office on March 14, 1861 in Cincinnati. The outbreak of the Civil War forced her to close her office and she traveled west to the recently settled frontier town of Bellevue, Iowa, to carry on her practice. Dentists were a rare commodity in the western states, a female one particularly so. In her first year of practice, Lucy managed to attract enough curious patients to make a living, pay off her expenses and purchase a dentist chair for her office. In 1862 she moved up the Mississippi River to McGregor, Iowa, where she practiced dentistry until 1865.

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In 1865 Lucy was invited to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Dental Society. At that meeting the Society voted unanimously to extend an invitation of full membership to Miss Hobbs despite her lack of a dental degree. Lucy accepted membership and became the first woman member of a professional dental association. In that same year, Lucy was nominated as one of the Society's representatives to attend the American Dentist's convention in Chicago. Accompanying her was the Society's resolution that she be admitted to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery for the next class session or the Iowa Dental Society would withdraw its membership from the convention.

At the age of 32, having read medicine, apprenticed and practiced dentistry for over five years, Lucy Hobbs was examined and placed in the senior class of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. Lucy was the only woman in a class of 19 students. She maintained the highest grades in her class and passed all the requirements without difficulty.

After completing her studies in February, 1866, Lucy went to Chicago and set up practice. While in Chicago she met her future husband, James Myrtle Taylor. They were married on April 24, 1867, and Lucy proceeded to serve as James' preceptor. Because of James' failing health they sold their office in Chicago and moved to Lawrence, Kansas in 1867.

Within a year the Drs. Taylor prospered sufficiently to purchase from Frederick W. Sparr an empty lot at 49 Vermont Street (later renumbered to 809) with the intention of building an office and house. An advertisement of April 2, 1871, announced the opening of the new office on Vermont Street.

By 1880's Lucy and James Taylor had built one of the most lucrative practices in all of Kansas. In 1879 Lucy had purchased another lot in west Lawrence, and by 1881 the Taylor's new house on lot 65, Ohio Street was finished. About the same time that they moved to their new residence on Ohio Street, the Taylors moved their practice to a commercial building at the corner of Massachusetts and 8th streets.

In 1886 James Taylor died. The day after his funeral the Lawrence Daily Journal carried an announcement that Dr. L.M. Mathews, formerly of Fort Scott, would serve henceforth as Dr. Taylor's partner in her old office at 49 Vermont Street.

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In 1887 Lucy retired from practice, selling her Vermont street property to the wife of a young dentist in town and closing her Massachusetts Street office. Dr. Taylor was far from idle after quitting practice. She campaigned for women's rights in the Republican party and on her own. She lent aid to such feminist leaders as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

Retirement, however, did not suit Dr. Taylor. On December 19, 1895 she repurchased her former home/office at 809 Vermont, into which she moved her dental equipment and personal effects. She again advertised as a dentist in the city directories and continued a limited practice to the end of her life.

On October 3, 1910, Lucy Hobbs Taylor died from a stroke. The Lawrence Daily Journal expressed the sentiments of the community when it said, "Dr. Lucy Taylor was one of the most striking figures in Lawrence, she occupied a position of honor and ability, for years she occupied a place high in the ranks of her profession. Dr. Taylor was a great charitable worker and did much good in a quiet, inobtrusive manner."

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

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Ms., 1943. Kansas Collection.

Foley, Gardner P.H., "Lucy Hobbs Taylor, 1833-1910," Medical Heritage  
Society, Ms., 1971. Courtesy of author.

Proceedings of the Iowa Dental Association, 1863-1865. Ms., Iowa State  
Historical Department, Des Moines.

Savage, Mary, Lucy Hobbs Taylor, D.D.S., Lawrence, Kansas. Ms.,  
Elizabeth M. Watkins Museum, Lawrence.

Taylor, Lucy Hobbs, "Correspondence to Elizabeth Cady Stanton."  
Undated. Ms., National Woman Suffrage Association, Volume  
13, pp. 313-314, Chicago Historical Society.

Taylor, Lucy Hobbs, The Early Women in Dentistry. Ms., Kansas State  
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Secondary Sources

Books

Hair, James T., Iowa State Gazetteer, 1865. Chicago: Bailly and Hair, 1865.

Myers, Lena D., Alexander McGregor and His Town. McGregor: Public  
Library, 1971.

Smith, Earle S., A History of the Iowa Dental Association, 1863-1963.  
Waterloo: Grout Museum of History and Science, 1963.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, Susan B. Anthony and Matilda Joselyn Gage,  
History of Woman Suffrage, Volume 3 (1876-1885).  
Rochester: Charles Mann, 1887.

Stern, Madeleine B., We, the Women. New York: Schulte Publishing  
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Articles

Adair, Wilbur G., "Sketch of Lucy Hobbs Taylor, D.D.S.," Journal of the Ohio State Dental Association. Volume 23, No. 2, May 1949, pp. 89-91.

Bumgardner, Edward, "America's First Woman Dentist," Oral Hygiene. May, 1943, pp. 634-635, 641.

Edwards, Ralph W., "The First Woman Dentist: Lucy Hobbs Taylor, D. D.S. (1833-1910)," Bulletin of the History of Medicine. Volume 25, No. 3, May-June, 1951, pp. 277-283.

Korf, Stanley R., "Lucy Beaman Hobbs Taylor - A Saga," CDS Review. Volume 68, No. 4, April, 1975, pp. 20-23.

"Lucy B. Hobbs," Journal of the American Dental Association. Volume 92, May, 1976, p. 910.

Rozar, Lily B. "Cyclones in Calico," Oldtimers Old West. Volume No. 2, December, 1973, pp. 48-52, 62.

Rozar, Lily B., "Lucy's Legacy - The Lady Dentist Created New Opportunities for Her Sex," CAL Magazine. June, 1967, pp. 16-17.

Sweet, A. Potter, "Biography - Lucy Beaman Hobbs Taylor," Dental Radiology and Photography. Volume 26, No. 2, 1953, pp. 1, 40.

West, Bertha, "Lucy Hobbs, First Woman Dentist," TIC. Volume 32, May, 1973. pp. 11-12.

"Women In Dentistry, 1855-1880," Journal of American Dental Association. Volume 15, September, 1928, pp. 1735-1756.

Newspapers

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Lawrence Daily World, October 3, 1910. Microfilm, Kansas Collection.

Republican Daily Journal (Lawrence), April 1-2, 1871, Microfilm, Kansas State Historical Society.

Topeka Daily Capital, August 9, 1908, p. 6. Microfilm, Kansas State Historical Society.

Original nomination submitted by Craig S. Crosswhite.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lawrence East, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 49, Vermont St. in Ward 1, City of Lawrence. The building occupies, and has occupied since it was built in 1871. This lot in downtown Lawrence.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Department

organization Ks. State Historical Society date March 17, 1982

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913-296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 22, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**Lucy Hobbs Taylor Building**  
**Lawrence, Kansas**  
**UTM Reference: 15/306106/4315420**